

Bank of Scotland Badminton Carnivals visit Aberdeenshire

Primary schoolchildren in Aberdeenshire will have the opportunity to improve their badminton skills later this month, as the Bank of Scotland Badminton Carnivals visit Robert Gordon University Sports Centre on 29 & 30 September 2008.

It is the first Bank of Scotland Carnival ever to be held in the area, and following on from the successful Bank of Scotland Roadshow held in Aberdeenshire last year it further builds on the valuable relationship between **BADMINTONscotland** and Aberdeenshire Council.

The **Bank of Scotland** Carnivals are a major aspect of the partnership between **Bank of Scotland** and **BADMINTONscotland** and over 6000 youngsters from across Scotland took part in them last season, taking advantage of the expert tuition on offer from some of **BADMINTONscotland's** top coaches to try the sport, improve their skills and enjoy themselves. They aim to promote sport and healthy lifestyles amongst young people in Scotland by encouraging them to take up the sport of badminton.

Pupils take part in 6 different activities, with a badminton skill central to each, including Beat the Coach, Round the World and Target Hitting. Pupils also have the opportunity to win some prizes along the way competing in the Fitness Challenge and Bouncing Challenge. Regardless of whether or not pupils have ever played before everyone involved will have the opportunity to improve their skills, learn new ones and of course most importantly, have fun.

There are also various other Bank of Scotland Carnivals during the coming season, rotated across other areas of Scotland to give children from all over the country the chance to try the sport. Areas which will be visited include East Lothian, the Borders, Fife, Lanarkshire, and of course the week long extravaganza running in conjunction with the Bank of Scotland International Championships at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall in November.

And following on from the success of the inaugural Bank of Scotland Disability Carnival held in Glasgow in May, the second Bank of Scotland Disability Carnival will be held in Glasgow next May, 2009.

Russell Hogg, Development Manager for **BADMINTONscotland**, said: "It is really rewarding when you see the children with smiles on their faces. These events will hopefully stimulate children's interest in badminton and encourage them to pursue the sport in the future."

Karen Tighe, Deputy Head of Sponsorship for Bank of Scotland, said "We are delighted that Aberdeen is to host the first ever Bank of Scotland Play Badminton Carnival in the Aberdeenshire area. The sport has experienced a massive increase in popularity in the area in recent years and hopefully this visit can encourage even more young people to take an interest in the sport. The popularity of Bank of Scotland Play Badminton Carnivals has grown every year and they have become important fixtures in the school calendar in encouraging school children from around Scotland to take up sport and lead active lifestyles."

Aberdeenshire Council Badminton Development Officer Joan Prieur, said "This is a great opportunity for young people to come along and try the game. The initial aim is to make it fun and exciting for the children to make sure they enjoy and gain the most out of their experience with us. Hopefully it will stimulate their interest and encourage them to follow the sport through their local clubs and groups where they will be able to develop their skills."

For further information about the Bank of Scotland Carnival in Aberdeenshire contact:
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